

for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 21, 1999.

**James R. Frazier,**

*Acting Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.*

[FR Doc. 99-33641 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-02-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee will hold a tele conference meeting on January 6, 2000. This Committee, established by the Secretary of Agriculture on December 15, 1998, (64 FR 2876) is chartered to provide advice to the Secretary on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Region and other matters raised by the Secretary.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held January 13, 2000, beginning at 2 p.m. and ending at 3 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via tele conference. To access this call please follow instructions: You must have a touch tone phone. Dial 1 (888) 769-8514 at the tone please give the password number 13885.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ed Gee or Jeannie Stafford, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service, 870 Emerald Bay Road Suite 1, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, (530) 573-2642.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The committee will meet jointly with the Lake Tahoe Basin Executives Committees. Items to be covered on the agenda include: [1] Watershed Assessment Recommendations. [2] Public comments. All Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to obtain tele conference information. Issues may be brought to the attention of the Committee during the open public comment period during the meeting or by filing written statements with the secretary for the Committee before or after the meeting. Please refer any written comments to the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit at the contact address stated above.

Dated: December 20, 1999.

**Edmund Gee,**

*Acting Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 99-33561 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

[Docket No. 990114014-9317-02]

**RIN: 0605-XX05**

### Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

**AGENCY:** Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of amendment of privacy act system of records; commerce/patent and trademark system 14.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce is amending the system of records listed under Commerce-Patent and Trademark System 14: User of Public Search Room of the Patent and Trademark Office. This action has been taken to update the user pass system privacy act notice. We invite public comment on the proposed changes announced in this publication.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* The amendments will become effective as proposed January 27, 2000.

*Comment Date:* To be considered, written comments must be submitted on or before January 27, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be sent via United States Mail delivery to Nancy Slutter, Office of the Solicitor, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Box 8, Washington, DC 20231; or via facsimile at 703-305-9373. All comments received will be available for public inspection at the Public Search Facilities, Crystal Plaza 3, 2021 South Clark Place, Arlington, VA 22202.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy Slutter, Office of the Solicitor, Box 8, Washington, DC 20231, 703-305-9035.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) will modify its current user pass system for persons using the Public Search Facilities and other offices at the PTO. The user pass system will be modified from a system that is currently collected on paper to a system that stores records electronically. The PTO maintains numerous search facilities for the use of members of the public. Patent applications are available to applicants and their designees and all trademark files are available to the public. Additionally, application files for issued United States patents are available for inspection and duplication at the PTO. Thus, members of the public have a need to access certain areas of the PTO

facilities. The PTO has become aware of problems associated with improper use, removal, loss, or theft of application files and other PTO property and, therefore, plans to modernize its user pass system to better preserve its resources. Additionally, the user pass system will help the PTO understand the public's use of PTO facilities and allocate sufficient resources to serve the public.

On January 6, 1998, the PTO issued a notice in its Official Gazette notifying the public that updated identification passes would be issued to public users of the PTO search facilities. On October 22, 1997, the PTO held a public hearing concerning the public's access to application files. Members of the public submitted a number of written comments concerning access to application files. All commenters objected to a proposal that would have restricted access to the application files. Four additional commenters, while expressing concern at the proposal to restrict access, praised the PTO for efforts to implement procedures to assure the integrity of the application files.

Application files are critically important to understanding the metes and bounds of the intellectual property grants that the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks issues. See, e.g., *Warner-Jenkinson Co. v. Hilton Davis Chem. Co.*, 117 S.Ct. 1040, 1049-50 (1997) (discussing prosecution history estoppel). Moreover, Congress has mandated that the PTO keep and preserve all records pertaining to patents and trademark registrations. 35 U.S.C. 1.

Changes being made to update PAT/TM-14 include amendments to the system name, categories of records in the system, policies and practices for storing records, and addresses. The system name is being amended to reflect that this system encompasses all public facilities at the Patent and Trademark Office, not just the Public Search Room as the system is currently named. The categories of records in the system is being amended: (i) To clarify that the PTO may collect addresses, including business, home and/or electronic mail addresses—the current notice merely lists home addresses; (ii) to include telephone numbers—the current system does not mention telephone numbers; (iii) to include a photograph—the current system does not mention photographs; (iv) to include record of use—the current system does not mention record of use; (v) to include government-issued identification cards and information contained therein—the current system does not mention